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Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00
CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05
FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01 /115 W
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O R 181444Z FEB 77
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3080
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3167
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 1599

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC UR PLOS EFIS
SUBJECT: EC/SOVIET FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS: THE RUSSIANS SUBMIT TO LICENSING; TALKS TO RESUME NEXT WEEK

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1579 (B) EC BRUSSELS 1484
(C) EC BRUSSELS 809

1. SUMMARY: THE INITIAL ROUND OF EC/USSR FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED FEBRUARY 18, TO RESUME FEBRUARY 28. THE USSR HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED, AND THE EC HAS APPROVED, LICENSES FOR 40 VESSELS TO FISH IN EC WATERS UP TO MARCH 31. NEGOTIATORS ARE UPBEAT ON THE PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THEIR FEBRUARY 17-18 NEGOTIATING SESSIONS, THE EC AND USSR MANAGED TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF LICENSING SOVIET FISHING VESSELS IN EC WATERS DURING THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO MARCH 31. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM EC COMMISSION AND UK PERMDEL SOURCES THAT
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THE USSR FORMALLY REQUESTED ON FEBRUARY 17 THAT EC LICENSES BE PROVIDED FOR A LIST OF 40 SHIPS. THE LIST EXCEEDS THE NUMERICAL LIMITS ANNOUNCED BY THE EC (REFTEL C - 27 SHIPS LICENSED OVERALL; NO MORE THAN 17 TO FISH AT ANY ONE TIME), AND (ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SOURCE) INCLUDES 7 "SUPER TRAWLERS," 10 FACTORY TRAWLERS, AND 23 TRAWLERS OF LESS THAN 200 TONS.

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3. EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL EAMON GALLAGHER ANNOUNCED AT A FEBRUARY 18 PRESS CONFERENCE (AT WHICH HE WAS JOINED BY THE HEADS OF THE SOVIET AND EC PRESIDENCY DELEGATIONS - ISHKOV AND SCOTT) THAT THE EC'S ORIGINAL NUMERICAL RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN BASED UPON VESSELS OF A LARGER AVERAGE SIZE THAN THOSE ON THE LIST SUBMITTED BY THE RUSSIANS AND THAT THE EC HAD ALLOWED FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT, IF AVERAGE SIZE WERE REDUCED, THE OVERALL NUMERICAL CEILING COULD BE INCREASED. THE EC HAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO ISSUE LICENSES TO ALL OF THE SHIPS ON THE RUSSIAN LIST; BUT A SECOND FACTOR REMAINS IN FORCE -- ONLY A NUMBER OF SHIPS WHOSE FISHING CAPACITY IS EQUIVALENT TO THE 17 SHIPS ORIGINALLY ALLOWED WILL BE PERMITTED TO FISH AT A GIVEN TIME. ISHKOV ADDED THAT A DEFINITIVE DECISION ON THIS POINT WILL BE MADE NEXT WEEK.

4. ISHKOV, SCOTT AND GALLAGHER ALL EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS INITIAL ROUND OF TALKS HAD GONE WELL AND THAT THERE IS NOW A GOOD BASIS FOR CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT SOON. SCOTT STRESSED, IN PARTICULAR, THAT THERE HAD BEEN A CONSENSUS OF OPINION ON SUCH PRINCIPLES AS CONSERVATION OF FISH STOCKS AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES. (COMMENT: THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE NOTES THAT "THIS FIRST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS RESULTED IN A WIDE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES, DERIVED ESSENTIALLY FROM THE EMERGING CONSENSUS ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, WHICH WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO A LONG-TERM FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES BETWEEN THE PARTIES.")

5. ISHKOV DECLINED TO COMMENT ON WHAT THE USSR MIGHT BE WILLING TO OFFER THE EC IN THE BARENTS SEA, WHERE THE SOVIET 200-MILE LIMIT WILL GO INTO EFFECT MARCH 1 (UK, FRG, AND DANISH VESSELS CURRENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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TAKE ABOUT 60,000 TONS OF COD ANNUALLY IN THOSE WATERS).

6. SCOTT ANNOUNCED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESUME IN BRUSSELS FEBRUARY 28, FOLLOWING A "PERIOD OF REFLECTION" BY BOTH SIDES. MORRIS

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Event:
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